

Message Text

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ACTION L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4882

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

USMISSION NATO

USDOCOSOUTH

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USDOCOALSE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 7049

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PLOS TU GR

SUBJECT: FURTHER REACTION TO ICJ RULING ON THE SISMIK

REF: ANKARA 7016 (131415Z SEP 76)

1. FONMIN CAGLAYANGIL, PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE FOR THE U.S. SEPT 13, COMMENTED TO REPORTERS ON THE SEPT 11 INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE (ICJ) RULING CONCERNING THE OPERATIONS OF THE SEISMIC SHIP SISMIK AND SAID THAT HE WOULD "PROBABLY" MEET WITH GREEK FONMIN BITSIOS IN NY. CAGLAYANGIL CHARACTERIZED THE ICJ RULING AS "THE RIGHTEOUS SIDE OBTAINING ITS RIGHTS, "BUT ADDED "THE IMPORTANT POINT IS NOT WHOSE THESIS WAS SUCCESS FUL. THERE IS A DIFFERENCE OF VIEW BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES...THE REAL VICTORY WILL BE TO ESTABLISH A PEACEFUL AND JQYTMXOLUTION." ASKED IF HE WOULD MEET WITH BITSIOS IN NY, CAGLAYANGIL SAID, CONFIDENTIAL

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"NATURALLY NEGOTIATIONS COULD NOT BE CONDUCTEDHWHILE THERE WAS

AN APPLICATION TO THE ICJ TO BAN THE ACTIVITIES OF THE SHIP AND PREVENT TURKEY FROM TAKING ITS OWN MILITARY MEASURES. THAT IS WHY WE SAID THAT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO START NEGOTIATIONS AS LONG AS GREECE DID NOT WITHDRAW ITS APPLICATION ABOUT PROTECTIVE MEASURES...TODAY THE SITUATION HAS BEEN CLARIFIED. THE ICJ HAS GIVEN ITS VERDICT. SO SUCH A MEETING IS PROBABLE BUT IT WILL REQUIRE NEW CONTACTS, A NEW AGREEMENT. I EXPECT THE MEETING TO COME ABOUT."

2. PRIMIN DEMIREL ALSO COMMENTED BRIEFLY SEPT 13 ON THE ICJ RULING, NOTING THAT THE COURT HAD NOT STOPPED THE ACTIVITIES OF THE SISMİK, WHICH WAS CONTINUING ITS OPERATIONS IN THE AEGEAN. "IN THIS WAY THE GOVT DEMONSTRATED ITS DETERMINATION TO PROTECT TURKEY'S RIGHTS. WE ARE DETERMINED TO SOLVE THE CONTINENTAL SHELF PROBLEM PEACEFULLY."(-\$\$?3. EMBOFF DISCUSSED THE ICJ DECISION WITH MFA AEGEAN/LOS AFFAIRS CHIEF TURMEN SEPT 14. TURMEN SAID THAT THE ABOVE MENTIONED CAGLAYANGIL STATEMENT REFLECTED THE GOT REACTION TO THE DECISION. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT CAGLAYANGIL SOUNDED MORE CONCILIATORY THAN HE HAD PRIOR TO THE DECISION. TURMEN SAID HE EXPECTED CAGLAYANGIL TO MEET WITH BITSIOS IN NY; HOWEVER, THE GOT TO DATE HAS HAD NO POST-RULING CONTACTS WITH THE GOG, AND HE WAS UNCERTAIN WHAT EFFECT THE DECISION WOULD HAVE ON THE GREEK ATTITUDE TOWARD BILATERAL TALKS. TURMEN OPINED THAT PERHAPS THIRD PARTIES COULD ASSIST IN BRINGING ABOUT NEW TALKS. HE SAID THE GOT WAS WAITING WITH AN "OPEN DOOR" FOR ANY GREEK PROPOSALS, BUT IT HAD TAKEN NO INITIATIVES TO PROPOSE TALKS SUBSEQUENT TO THE LAST CAGLAYANGIL-BITSIOS MEETING IN NY AUG 25. TURMEN WAS OPTIMISTIC THAT, BASED ON HIS READING OF THE ICJ DECISION AND SEPARATE OPINIONS, TURKEY WOULD MEET WITH SUCCESS AT THE ICJ ON THE STILL UNRESOLVED QUESTION OF THE COURT'S JURISDICTION TO RULE.

4. AS EMBOFF WAS LEAVING, TURMEN COMMENTED THAT HE PROBABLY WOULD BE IN CONTACT WITH US LATER ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF USG ASSISTANCE TO THE GOT IN OBTAINING FROM US PRIVATE SOURCES AND THE USG SEISMIC OR OTHER DATA (INCLUDING SATELLITE DATA) WHICH MIGHT BE USEFUL IN PETROLEUM EXPLORATION. HE SAID HE WOULD BE MEETING WITH TECHNICAL EXPERTS FROM THE MINERAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE (MTA) AND TURKISH PETROLEUM OFFICE (TPAO)
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TO OBTAIN FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT WHAT THE GOT MIGHT SEEK USG ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING.
FRANCIS

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